













A Swallow correspondent writes to a Shanghai contemporary on 'The need of reform' in China. What century is this?

The French cruiser *Captain Massé* leaves France on the 1st of November for the Far Eastern station to relieve the *Duguay-Trouin*, which returns to Europe. The *Duguay-Trouin* has been six years on the Far Eastern and Southern Pacific Stations. She will undergo a complete renovation on her return.

Last night, a foreman of coolies at the Taikoo Sugar Refinery was followed from the works along the Shaikwan Road, by four coolies, whom he had been instrumental in dismissing on account of some quarrel, and was severely assaulted with a knife and fighting tools. The cries of the foreman brought some people to his assistance, and the men ran up the hillside. One man was arrested by Sergeant Patterson, and at the Magistracy to-day was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

The question has been raised again as to what constitutes a cockloft. Sanitary Inspector Rennie prosecuted Ching-Yau Tao, of No. 27 Wyndham Street, at the Magistracy to-day, for maintaining a cockloft on the first floor of No. 44 Hing Ling Street, on 3rd October. The Inspector stated there was a distance of 8 ft. 8 in. below and 8 ft. 10 in. above the cockloft. It was approached by the common stair which led to the other floors of the house. The cockloft was divided into three compartments, and had a railing on the front portion. He had given instructions to the owner to remove the mezzanine floor, but the obstruction had not been removed. Mr. Rennie, who appeared for the defence, called Mr. A. Denison, architect, to prove that the floor complained of was not a mezzanine floor. The floor was divided into two regions, one of which was lighted by two windows, and the other two by one window each, these windows being altogether separate from the floor below. About twelve years ago the back part of the house had been re-constructed to form four storeys. There were separate kitchens for these storeys. The front part of the building was composed of two storeys, the so-called mezzanine floors extending half the distance across. Commander Hastings referred to Webster's Dictionary for a definition of the term 'mezzanine floor,' and found it to be a storey of small height interposed between two higher ones. It was contended that the floor in question had not been introduced, but was built at the same time as the other storeys. The Building Ordinance of 1889 did not apply to the present building as it was built previous to that date. Commander Hastings stated he would view the premises, and adjourned the case till to-morrow.

To-day there came into our hands an account bearing the following notice:—

Chopped Japanese Dollars and subsidiary Chinese coins cannot be accepted in payment of this account. Our sympathies are with the Company issuing the notice; but we would like to know how it is possible to pay ordinary, everyday accounts in this British Colony of Hongkong without using an alien currency. Whoever is responsible for the wretched condition of the Colony's currency ought to be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. Not so very long ago, the clean British dollar had ousted the miserable, chopped Chinese dollar, and even the Japanese yen—once so prevalent—was becoming a rarity; but nowdays the British dollar is seldom, if ever, seen and British subsidiary coins are little more than a myth. It was stated recently that a certain important banking institution had purchased a large consignment of Japanese yen (each yen has now an official chop since Japan adopted the gold currency and redeemed her silver), with the intention of supplying the needs of the Shanghai, Hongkong, and Singapore communities; but apparently the public is expected to pay weekly for the convenience every nine a Japanese coin is presented to the banks. The Government departments occupy a most anomalous position. They refuse to accept foreign coins in payment of accounts but have no scruples about paying out Chinese coins from various mints and Japanese and Straits coins at will. What is everybody's business is nobody's business, and we drift on from day to day the victims of a currency that is almost beyond redemption. Perhaps the introduction of so many spurious coins—the Colony is flooded with them—will induce the Government to take up the subject; but in any case the Chamber of Commerce (if its interests elsewhere do not outweigh public interests) ought to take some action to bring about a reformation. It has a precedent to guide it in the full meeting of the Chamber called to discuss the introduction of an unchopped British dollar. Immediate action is called for.

Plans Tuning and Repairs, New Music, Mariettes, Banjos, New Stock—Robinson Piano Co.

IT IS REMARKABLE

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The valuable leasehold property, situate at Kowloon Point, advertised for sale by public auction, to-day, by Messrs. Hughes and Hough, by order of the mortgagees, has been privately sold. The property was registered in the Land Office as the remaining portion of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 406 and the remaining portion of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 407. The properties are held for the respective residues of the terms of 75 years and 75 years created by the respective Crown Leases thereof at the Crown Rent for the whole of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 406 of \$32, of which the sum of \$54.40 is the apportioned amount payable in respect of Section A, and for the whole of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 407 of \$208, of which the sum of \$192.80 is the apportioned amount payable in respect of Section A. The property was sold for \$14,000.

VENTURES AT THE DOORS.—At Kowloon.—Isidoro Pons, Ningbo, Hongkong, Fronto, Formosa, Agnes, Windsor Castle, Mouthmouth, Empress of China, H.M.S. Florio, Kaitang.

COMPROMISE.—Taku, Aberdeen.—(None).

R. M. MONTGOMERY, the humorist, and at one time assistant-editor of *Puck*, presented a check and drawing at an up-town bank in New York, where he was personally known. 'I know the name very well,' said the cashier, 'but you will have to be identified as the man.' 'Well, now,' said Montgomerie, 'that's too bad. Everybody knows I'm down-and-out, and the only pair of socks I have with my dirty, dirty birth-mark on them, are in the wash this morning. That's all right, said the cashier, 'you're Montgomerie. Here's your money.'

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH FLEET at Taku at the time of the Palace coup d'état is thought by the Tientsin correspondent of the N.C. Daily News to have had some influence in saving Chang Yin-hung's life. His banishment to Kashiya is a lenient punishment, when we consider that palace seditions nearly all end in short deaths and the cord for the vanquished. We may state that the Chinese media view on family responsibility is to be actually guided and governing at the execution of K'ang's innocent brother in Peking.

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WHEN HIS old neighbour decided to adventure upon a married life, Mangleton, who has been with us for many years, determined to mark the event with a suitable present. He wanted by a large family Bible, with room on the fly-leaf for say, a dozen or so inscriptions as to births. This he was short of Bible with anything like the capacity required, so he bought instead an imposing leather-bound Webster's Dictionary, and on the fly-leaf wrote:—'From William Mangleton to John Rufus on his wedding.'

IT IS perhaps not generally known (says the N.C. Daily News) that the Grand Secretary Jung Lu, who, until the other day, held the post of Viceroy of Chihli, is a favourite nephew of the Empress-Dowager—the son of her only sister—and that this circumstance alone, if any other were wanting, would have placed him on her side in the conflict with His Majesty Kwang Hsi—and the Grand Secretary further places him at the head of all the officials of the Empire with the exception of Li Hung-chang, who happens to hold the post of Viceroy of Szechuan and Grand Secretary. The news of Jung Lu's fall would enable him to carry out his policy of maintaining the present status quo with the Emperor.

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The Weihsien correspondent of the N.C. Daily News wrote on the 28th Sept.—A collier has been lying in the harbour for some two weeks or so past. Last week she was supposed to be on fire. Binoculars of the Customs worked at her lazily for several days. After getting out about 100 tons of her cargo of coal, it was found to be a false alarm: it was only a steam pipe burst, a matter easily remedied.

'Did Shakespeare know anything?' inquires a correspondent, who writes as follows:—'When we come to think of it, Shakespeare could not have known much—not even how it feels to wear a false nose. He never saw a lunatic, or a steel pen, and his ignorance of the art of photography was only equalled by the lack of knowledge he possessed about the typewriter. He never saw a fire-engine, a steam-navy, a torpedo, a search-light, not to mention the electric light. He never sent or received a telegram, or held his ear to the telephone and listened to sweet Anne Hathaway read out a list of articles she wished him to bring home. He never rode in a tram-car, or in a railway train, and never knew the feelings which a boy experiences when wearing long trousers for the first time, because he never wore such things. He never tried to ride a bicycle, never used roller skates, never saw a steamship, or anything else that we now take for granted. He was a simple, uneducated man, who knew nothing about the things that we now take for granted. He was a simple, uneducated man, who knew nothing about the things that we now take for granted.'

THE CAPTURE OF A SEA LION. BEING AN INTERVIEW WITH LORD CHARLES BORSFORD.

We are all aware that Lord Charles Borsford knows more than most people about the Navy, and as much as most people about China. We likewise know that he has been interviewed by numerous other both these questions. An interview, therefore, that contains no mention of either ought to be refreshing from its novelty. This was the condition on which I was allowed to cross-examine him, and I found him at one o'clock, seated on deck, reposing himself after a brisk morning's work, which he had encompassed with the aid of a brace of private secretaries.

With a view of approaching my subject in the proper way, I asked him what he considered the best drink for a hot climate. The answer was 'Lemon Squash.' I waited some time before asking my next question, in the hope that he would ask me to have some. But alas! I was doomed to bitter disappointment, and had to proceed with my questioning heavily handicapped by a raging thirst.

'Have you ever been the possessor of a nickname?' 'I was known as "The Rascal" for some time after entering the Navy, but I have always been known to the world generally as "Charlie." In fact, whenever I drive my four-in-hand through London, every little gutter urchin is sure to shout "Charlie" at me.'

'Next to prize-fighting, which do you consider the noblest profession?' 'Prize-fighting was quite an honest and respectable calling until the money element entered into it; but the noblest profession now and always is to serve one's country—no matter whether your department be Naval, Military or Civil. If you are serving your country, your profession is the noblest of all.'

'Do you agree with Carlyle's definition of the House of Commons—"Six hundred talking asses"?' 'Well, no; not quite. You can't improve on the House in any way, and as an institution it is not altogether useless, while, as I know, a man has to pass a very high competitive examination before he can possibly get into it. Roughly speaking, I divide the House of Commons into two sets—people who occupy front seats and will sacrifice their souls in order to stop there, and people who are not in the front seats, but would willingly stake their chances of salvation in order to get there.'

'Have you any original ideas on the subject of matrimony?' 'For a man who wants to get on in public life a good wife is invaluable. Marriage is much too lightly undertaken nowadays, and on the whole I think the subject is very good.'

'What was the narrowest squeak you ever had?' 'I have had hairbreadth escapes innumerable. For instance, I was shot through the hat at Abu Klea, and when I was in a gun position the rope in my hands was twice cut by bullets. But my closest shave was the adventure with the shark at Bermuda.'

Here Lord Charles told me the adventure in full, but, as it is known to the world over, I shall not reproduce it here.

'When electrifying, what is the swear word that clinches an argument soonest?' 'I never swear.'

I did not exactly like to call him a liar, but he could see I looked incredulous.

'But what do you do when asked at a public meeting a question that completely flummoxes you?' 'No question has yet forced me without a ready answer. You forget that I am an Irishman.'

'Colonel North once got off this platform at a rowdy meeting and restored order by thrashing the biggest man in the room. Have you ever had any similar experiences?' 'No. I have fought elections in England, Scotland and Ireland, and have always been treated most courteously, even by my opponents. My long connection with the two services (army and navy) may possibly account for it. I have always tried to be as moderate as possible, to avoid extravagant statements, and to rely on calm and deliberate arguments to convince my audience.'

'Is it true that when you were riding in the Jubilee procession you kissed your hand to Lady Borsford, who was on one of the stands, and had the salute returned by a number of other ladies who all thought it was meant for them?' 'Yes. I believe much a thing did happen.'

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THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

ATTEMPT TO RESCUE HUANG CHUN-HSIEN. A LEGAL LUMINARY IN HIS PYJAMAS. (Special Telegram from Our Own Correspondent.)

SHANGHAI, Oct. 11, 5.16 p.m. The discharged Imperial Korean body-guard (foreigners), early this morning, made a ludicrous attempt to rescue H. E. Huang Chun-hsien from the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in the Bubbling Well Road. Mr. W. V. Drummond, Legal Adviser to the Chinese Government, who lives next door, appeared on the scene in his pyjamas, and threatened legal proceedings, whereupon the thirty heroes retired crestfallen.

THE ATTEMPTED REGICIDE IN COREA. THREE PRISONERS EXECUTED. SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION. (Special Telegram from Our Own Correspondent.)

CHUNGKING, Oct. 11, 8 p.m. Three of the men in prison at Seoul charged with being implicated in the attempt to assassinate the Emperor of Corea were executed last night.

After the execution, the mob of natives dragged the bodies through the streets. There was no other violence, but undoubtedly the political situation here is daily becoming more serious.

PRINCESS HENRY OF PRUSSIA TO VISIT THE FAR EAST. It is freely rumored in German circles in the Colony to-day that H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia is to pay a visit to the Far East, some time in December, to meet her husband, Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia, who is at present cruising in northern waters in the German flagship *Deutschland*. It is thought probable that Her Royal Highness will make a short stay in Hongkong.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS. SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL.' LONDON, October 10. GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE. THE FASHODA INCIDENT.

The official correspondence with France concerning the Upper Nile shows that Sir E. Monson declared to M. Hanotaux in December, 1897, that Great Britain would not admit to any other Power the right to occupy any part of the Nile Valley. It also shows that Lord Salisbury telegraphed to Sir E. Monson in September, to inform M. Delcasse that all the Khali's territories passed by right of conquest to the British-Egyptian Government, and that he did not consider this right open to discussion.

The newspapers are unanimous in supporting, unflinchingly, Lord Salisbury's vigorous repudiation of any compromise of the Fashoda incident. They fully recognize the gravity of the situation of Great Britain and France standing face to face, and say that one must recede, but that, after the publication of the Blue-book, Great Britain cannot.

THE INDIAN RISING IN MINNESOTA. NESOTA. The rising of Indians in Minnesota has been suppressed.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. The Cape Parliament has been opened. Sir Gordon Spry remains in office although in a slight minority.

WEATHER REPORT.







